



What am I? (1 & 2)

Focus Areas

Language Arts, Social Studies,
Technology

Time Needed for Activity

60 - 90 minutes

Software

iPhoto
Kodak EasyShare

System Requirements

Macintosh

OS X or higher (iPhoto)
128 MB RAM
20 MB hard disk space
8X CD-ROM drive
thousands of colors

OS 9 or higher (Kodak
EasyShare)
64 MB recommended
20 MB hard disk space
8X CD-ROM drive
thousands of colors

Windows

350 MHz Pentium
Windows 98 Second Edition
64 MB recommended
20 MB hard disk space
8X CD-ROM drive
16-bit color video adapter

Overall Objective

Children will solve riddles by using digital photography to demonstrate their answers. They will work in small groups to answer their riddles.

Activity Description

Children should have a beginning understanding and some experience answering riddles. This activity will be most successful if children are familiar with the use of digital cameras and have some experience downloading pictures from the camera to the computer.

In advance of the activity, prepare a series of riddles that could have more than one answer. The riddles can relate to a specific theme, unit of study, or the school environment. Refer to the examples on the last page of this activity. Divide the children into groups and offer each group several different riddles, making certain there is at least one riddle for each group member. Challenge the children to think of multiple solutions for their riddles and guide them as they examine the plausibility of their answers. If possible, provide a digital camera for each group. Otherwise, stagger the use of available cameras ensuring that each group has the opportunity to search for and photograph the answers to their riddles. Ask each group to download their pictures to iPhoto; create and name a new album with their riddle photos; and then make a new book. Choose a book theme in iPhoto that includes areas for text. (Storybook and Classic are two options that allow for several sentences of text.) On one page the children can have only text (set the “page type” to “introduction”) and retype their riddle. On the following page they can add the photo answer to their riddle and type their answer in the text box.

Supporting Software

Kid Pix Deluxe 4

MediaBlender

Photo Kit Junior

Notes

Learning Standards

Children will:

Use a digital camera to demonstrate an answer to a problem.

Language Arts: Communication Skills; Communication Strategies

Science: Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science; Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

Social Studies: Individual Development and Identity

Technology: Creativity and Innovation; Communication and Collaboration; Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving, and Decision-Making; Digital Citizenship; Technology Operations and Concepts

Define an unlikely but possible solution to a particular question.

Language Arts: Communication Skills; Communication Strategies

Science: Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science

Social Studies: Individual Development and Identity

Develop text that describes images.

Language Arts: Communication Skills; Communication Strategies; Evaluation Strategies

Social Studies: Individual Development and Identity

Technology: Communication and Collaboration; Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving, and Decision-Making; Digital Citizenship; Technology Operations and Concepts

Work in small groups and complete a project.

Language Arts: Communication Skills

Social Studies: Culture; Civic Ideals and Practices

Technology: Creativity and Innovation; Communication and Collaboration; Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving, and Decision-Making; Digital Citizenship; Technology Operations and Concepts

Additional Activities:

- Encourage children to prepare riddles for those in a lower grade or for each other.
- Ask children to select a picture from an assorted collection and write at least one riddle related to the picture. Remind them that their picture is a secret and seeing the picture might make it easier for other children to answer their riddle.

Notes

Additional Activities (cont'd)

- Plan a scavenger hunt using riddles as clues.
- Use GarageBand to record the children's riddles. Consider the "voice" of the riddle and then apply a GarageBand voice to the riddle. Determine if the different voice has an effect on the meaning of the riddle.

Resources

Books

Bridwell, N. (1974). *Clifford's riddles*. New York: Scholastic.

Joyce, S. (1999). *ABC nature riddles*. Columbus, NC: Peel Productions.

Keenan, S. (1999). *What time is it? A book of math riddles*. New York: Scholastic.

Martin, J. (2003). *ABC math riddles*. Columbus, NC: Peel Productions.

Marzollo, J. (1992). *I spy: A book of picture riddles*. New York: Scholastic.

Terban, M. (1982). *Eight ate: A feast of homonym riddles*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Walton, R. & Walton, A. (1991). *I toad you so: Riddles about frogs and toads*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications.

Web sites for children

<http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/nutrition/riddles.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/laac/gallery/pzi.shtml>

<http://www.loveyourdog.com/riddles.html>

Web sites for families

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/related.php?t=Kids+Riddles&c=/riddles97.htm>

<http://www.mothersgoosecaboose.com/indexfr.html>

<http://www.kidbibs.com/learningtips/lt8.htm>

Web sites for teachers

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/related.php?t=Kids+Riddles&c=/riddles97.htm>

Notes

Creating riddles in a table makes it easy to cut them apart, mix them up, and offer choices to the children.

| | |
|--|--|
| I have teeth but I don't bite. What am I? | I have legs but I can't walk. What am I? |
| I come in many colors. What am I? | I take away your mistakes. What am I? |
| You use me to get a drink. What am I? | I can be straight or curly. What am I? |
| I keep you from being a tangled mess. What am I? | I have a smooth side and a sticky side. What am I? |